

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method comprising:
  - 2 determining the node ID information of a second node
  - 3 device of a multi-node computer system; and
  - 4 storing the node ID information of the second node device
  - 5 on a storage device located on a first node device of the
  - 6 multi-node computer system;
- 7 wherein the first node device is connected to the second
- 8 node device, and the second node device includes a storage
- 9 device containing node ID information for a third node device
- 10 connected to the second node device.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - 2 retrieving, from the storage device of the second node
  - 3 device, the node ID information for the third node device.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - 2 storing the node ID information for the third node device
  - 3 on the storage device located on the first node device;
  - 4 wherein the third node device includes a storage device
  - 5 containing node ID information for a fourth node device
  - 6 connected to the third node device.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:
  - 2 retrieving, from the storage device of the third node
  - 3 device, the node ID information for the fourth node device.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
  - 2 storing the node ID information for the fourth node
  - 3 device on the storage device located on the first node device;

4       wherein the fourth node device includes a storage device  
5       containing node ID information for a fifth node device  
6       connected to the fourth node device.

1       6.    The method of claim 1 wherein the node ID information is  
2       specified on a node ID specification device located on the  
3       second node device.

1       7.    The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node  
2       ID information includes retrieving the node ID information  
3       from the node ID specification device of the second node  
4       device.

1       8.    The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node  
2       ID information includes transmitting the node ID information  
3       stored on the node ID specification device to the first node  
4       device.

1 9. A method comprising:

2 determining node ID information of a first node device of  
3 a multi-node computer system; and

4 storing the node ID information on a storage device  
5 located on a second node device of the multi-node computer  
6 system, wherein the second node device is connected to the  
7 first node device.

1 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

2 allowing a third node device of the multi-node computer  
3 system to access the node ID information stored on the storage  
4 device of the second node device.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the node ID information is  
2 specified on a node ID specification device located on the  
3 first node device.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification  
2 device is one or more jumper pins.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification  
2 device is one or more DIP switches.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification  
2 device is a read-only memory.

1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining the node  
2 ID information includes retrieving the node ID information  
3 from the node ID specification device of the first node  
4 device.

1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining the node  
2 ID information includes transmitting the node ID information  
3 stored on the node ID specification device to the second node  
4 device.

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1       17. A computer program product residing on a computer  
2        readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when  
3        executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

4                determine the node ID information of a second node  
5                device of a multi-node computer system; and  
6                store the node ID information of the second node  
7                device on a storage device located on a first node device  
8                of the multi-node computer system;

9                wherein the first node device is connected to the  
10          second node device, and the second node device includes a  
11          storage device containing node ID information for a third  
12          node device connected to the second node device.

1       18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said  
2        computer readable medium is a read-only memory.

1       19. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said  
2        computer readable medium is a hard disk drive.

1 20. A processor and memory configured to:

2 determine the node ID information of a second node  
3 device of a multi-node computer system; and

4 store said node ID information of said second node  
5 device on a storage device located on a first node device  
6 of said multi-node computer system;

7 wherein said first node device is connected to said  
8 second node device, and said second node device includes  
9 a storage device containing node ID information for a  
10 third node device connected to said second node device.

1 21. The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said  
2 processor and memory are incorporated into a network server.

1 22. The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said  
2 processor and memory are incorporated into a workstation.

PROVISIONAL PATENT

1 23. A node ID discovery process comprising:

2 a node ID determination process for determining the  
3 node ID information of a second node device of a multi-  
4 node computer system; and

5 a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
6 information of said second node device on a storage  
7 device located on a first node device of said multi-node  
8 computer system;

9 wherein said first node device is connected to said  
10 second node device, and said second node device includes  
11 a storage device containing node ID information for a  
12 third node device connected to said second node device.

1 24. The node ID discovery process of claim 23 further  
2 comprising:

3 a remote node device retrieval process for  
4 retrieving, from said storage device of said second node  
5 device, said node ID information for said third node  
6 device;

7 wherein said node ID storage process stores said  
8 node ID information for said third node device on said  
9 storage device located on said first node device.

1 25. A node ID discovery process comprising:

2 a node ID determination process for determining the  
3 node ID information of a first node device of a multi-  
4 node computer system; and

5 a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
6 information on a storage device located on a second node  
7 device of said multi-node computer system;

8 wherein said second node device is connected to said  
9 first node device.

1 26. The node ID discovery process of claim 25 further  
2 comprising:

3 an information access process for allowing a third  
4 node device of said multi-node computer system to access  
5 said node ID information stored on said storage device of  
6 said second node device.

1 27. A node ID discovery system comprising:  
2           a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;  
3           a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;  
4           a scalable node controller connected to one of said  
5           ports;  
6           at least one microprocessor connected to said  
7           scalable node controller;  
8           a node ID determination process for determining the  
9           node ID information of said multi-port switch; and  
10          a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
11          information of said multi-port switch on a storage device  
12          located on said scalable node controller;  
13          wherein said multi-port switch includes a storage  
14          device containing node ID information for said I/O hub  
15          controller.

1 28. The node ID discovery system of claim 27 further  
2 comprising:

3           a remote node device retrieval process for  
4          retrieving, from said storage device of said multi-port  
5          switch, said node ID information for said I/O hub  
6          controller;  
7          wherein said node ID storage process stores said  
8          node ID information for said I/O hub controller on said  
9          storage device located on said scalable node controller.

1 29. A node ID discovery system comprising:  
2           a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;  
3           a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;  
4           a scalable node controller connected to one of said  
5           ports;  
6           at least one microprocessor connected to said  
7           scalable node controller;  
8           a node ID determination process for determining the  
9           node ID information of said I/O hub controller; and  
10          a node ID storage process for storing said node ID  
11           information of said I/O hub controller on a storage  
12           device located on said multi-port switch.

1 30. The node ID discovery system of claim 29 further  
2 comprising:  
3           an information access process for allowing a  
4           scalable node controller to access said node ID  
5           information stored on said storage device of said multi-  
6           port switch.